

IN THE CLAIMS:

All claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown in the listing of claims and will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Claims 1-8 are amended herein. Claims 18 and 19 have been added. Claims 9, 10, 13 and 17 are cancelled. Claims 11, 12 and 14-16 were previously withdrawn from consideration. No new matter has been added. Please enter these claims as amended.

Listing of the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of ~~identifying~~ in vitro detection of a candidate drug compound for the treatment of an inflammatory or degenerative brain disease a chemokine receptor agonist, said method comprising:

~~testing a candidate drug compound for candidate drug compound's capacity to modulate or mimic MCP 1 binding with a chemokine receptor capable of being expressed on brain glial cells, wherein said~~ providing a cell which expresses a chemokine receptor is known in the mouse as L-CCR or in humans as CCR12;

providing a candidate drug compound to the cell; and

checking if the candidate drug compound is a chemokine receptor agonist by measuring chemotaxis of the cells towards the candidate drug compound or by measuring intracellular calcium gradients.

2. (Currently amended) The A method ~~according to claim 1 wherein said inflammatory or degenerative brain disease is selected from the group consisting of ischemia, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, and combinations thereof~~ of in vitro detection of a chemokine receptor antagonist, said method comprising:

providing a cell which expresses a chemokine receptor known as CCR12;

providing a candidate drug compound to the cell;

providing a known receptor agonist to the cell; and

checking if the candidate drug compound is a chemokine receptor antagonist by measuring chemotaxis of the cells towards the known receptor agonist or by measuring

intracellular calcium gradients.

3. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein ~~the capacity to modulate or mimic MCP-1 binding comprises down regulating the chemokine receptor~~ the known receptor agonist is selected from the group consisting of MCP-1, MCP-2, MCP-3 and RANTES.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein ~~the capacity is tested in-vitro~~ the receptor agonist is MCP-1.

5. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein ~~mRNA~~ the expression of said chemokine receptor is up-regulated induced or enhanced by treating the cells with lipopolysaccharide.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein ~~the mRNA expression is up-regulated by treatment with lipopolysaccharide (LPS)~~ the cell which expresses the chemokine receptor is a cultured cell.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 6, wherein ~~said capacity to modulate or mimic MCP-1 binding is measured by determining chemotaxis~~ the cell is a cell transfected with a nucleic acid sequence encoding CCR12.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 7, wherein ~~said chemokine receptor is expressed in a cultured cell~~ the cell is a HEK cell.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) A cell comprising a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a receptor

known in the mouse as L-CCR or in humans as CRAM-B or a functional equivalent of said receptor.

12. (Withdrawn) A non-human animal comprising the cell of claim 12.
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Withdrawn) An agonist or antagonist of degenerative or inflammatory disease obtainable or identifiable by the method according to claim 13.
15. (Withdrawn) The agonist or antagonist of claim 14 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient to form a pharmaceutical composition.
16. (Withdrawn) A method of treating a neurodegenerative or neuroinflammatory disease, said method comprising:
administering the pharmaceutical composition of claim 15 to a subject.
17. (Cancelled)
18. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the expression of said chemokine receptor is induced or enhanced by treating the cells with lipopolysaccharide.
19. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the cell which expresses the chemokine receptor is a cultured cell.